A Rocky Road

By Margaret Atwood

1. The plot

The story takes place at the Kinnear’s estate on Richmond Hill the date was November 21st 1843, the mood of this story was more of a tragic story trapped within a vicious love triangle. The narrative tale about two people in love and how with their jealousy of one man’s money leads them to killing him and his true love. Only steering there life into a bitter ending with death and imprisonment.

The writer was very good at jumping back and forth from person to person setting up the unfortunate events to come in this story. Almost giving you the illusion that you’re in the story just watching what’s going on from afar like a neighbour or something.

2) Type of conflict

External Conflict

3) Type of character

Thomas Kinnear – Gentleman (Main Character)

Nancy Montgomery – Bossy (Lover or Thomas)

James McDermott – Sneaky (Minion)

Grace Marks – Devious (Master Mind)

4) Point of view

You think as you’re reading this short story that the person who is telling you about it is a character, when I quite think it is a Narrator, because at the end of the book he talks about Grace as a narrator would. Also the option is they are speaking about themselves in the 1st person, not as a character but as all the characters.

5) Symbolism (if there is any)

(Page 15) From Nancy’s grave there grew a rose, and from Thomas Kinnear’s a vine; they grew so high they intertwined, and thus these two were joined.

The symbolism of this paragraph above is that even though Nancy and Thomas are dead, together the two of them will be forever joined in heaven.

(Page 15) At her Redeemer’s throne she’ll stand, And she’ll be cured of woe, And He her bloodied hands will wash, And she’ll be white as snow.

This symbolism is referring to Jesus Christ and how if Grace would ask for God’s forgiveness for what she has done then she will be “As white as snow“and be able to go into the heavens for eternal happiness.

6) The theme

The theme of this story is all around the murders of Nancy Montgomery and Thomas Kinnear’s and about the fall of the culprits James McDermott and Grace Marks.

7) Journal entry - how can you identify with the story?

I can’t really relate to this story, but I understand why they killed Thomas and Nancy. I think they wanted the money and wanted to live a happy life together not being the “hands” or “Maids” of Thomas Kinnear’s. From the angles read in the story, I considered that they wanted to have their own people to work for them; instead it didn’t work out like that in the story...